

## May We Be Blessed

### Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

The month of May in our city gives us reason to celebrate many things. It is the end of the school year and graduation time for our students. It is the enjoyment of warmer weather and outdoor festivals. It is also the month dedicated to mothers.

Motherhood, in its simplest terms, is the role of one who bears forth life. In more complex terms, it is an individual who provides the constant and unconditional love and nurturing we all need to flourish. This concept of motherhood in either terms applies so well to Catholic Charities and what we do in ministry – offer life giving programs and strive to be a support and care-giver for those who are lost, alone or struggling. Whether it is our pro-life ministries like ACCESS and Adoption Services providing women with care as they journey into motherhood, or staff at Padua Community Services providing a mother's nurturing love and care to disabled children and adults, Catholic Charities strives to be that loving

presence without condition serving all those in need regardless of race, religion, status or background.

This month, I hope you take the time to recognize and thank the women who are mother-figures in your life – the people in your life who give you the renewed energy to continue whatever work you have been called to do, the people in your life who support you and love you unconditionally.

As the month of May also immediately precedes the start of a new hurricane season, we look to Our Lady of Prompt Succor for her protection and safety. Please continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we prepare for a safe hurricane season.

God Bless,



Sr. Marjorie Hebert, M.S.C.  
President & CEO



Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond  
Archbishop of New Orleans

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**Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans** provides life-giving programs that deliver health and human services to the most vulnerable and needy throughout 8 civil parishes in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. We serve people regardless of race, religion, age, ethnicity or economic status.

## Hurricane Season Starts June 1!

**Awareness** and **preparation** are key to staying safe during hurricane season! At Catholic Charities, we work with our clients and staff to make sure they have an emergency plan ready in case of tumultuous weather.

Remember, June 6 has been designated by the Louisiana Catholic Bishops as a day of prayer and fasting for protection during this hurricane season! Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us!

For tips and resources in making your emergency plans for hurricane season, visit the National Hurricane Center <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/>.

*Providing help and creating hope after a disaster.*

**Did you know?**  
**In the aftermath of Hurricane Isaac, Catholic Charities...**

Gutted **57** storm-damaged homes and helped rebuild 3 homes.

Provided **5,334** individuals and families with immediate post-disaster services including case management, counseling and direct aid.

Provided long-term recovery assistance to **1,685** individuals and families through the Disaster Case Management Program (DCMP).

## notes from the Heart

### The Newsletter of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans

#### INSIDE:

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- Meet Catholic Charities: Project SAVE
- Celebrating Sr. Anthony
- ACCESS Jazz Brunch Photos
- Foster Care Programs Get New Home
- And more!



## Volunteer Spotlight: Gayle Gaubert, ACCESS Volunteer Since 2006

*Of mothers, grandmothers, baby bottles – and life, By Peter Finney Jr., courtesy of the Clarion Herald, originally published Tuesday, 06 May 2014*

Gayle Gaubert knows Wal-Mart, and she knows baby bottles. Every year, the St. Andrew the Apostle parishioner, the mother of three adult children, places an order for hundreds of bottles. She's done it so regularly for the last seven years that the retailing giant gives her a volume discount.

The bottles never are used for their intended purpose, but in the same way that a mother's love acts as a soothing leaven in a world where so often everything seems to be falling apart, the bottles wind up making an impact far beyond their role as instruments of physical nourishment.

It's a simple baby formula. In about two dozen parishes in the Archdiocese of New Orleans every year, Gaubert asks parishioners to take a baby bottle at the end of Mass and then return it the following week filled with cash or a check. That money then is donated to ACCESS Pregnancy Referral Centers of Catholic Charities, which each year counsels about 1,000 pregnant women who may need help in deciding to carry their babies to term.

That simple idea has produced about 25 percent of ACCESS Pregnancy's annual budget, and, more importantly, has saved lives.

Gaubert said a few years ago, she went to a church to make her appeal after Communion. At the end of Mass, a woman, carrying an 18-month-old, came up to see her.

"She told me, 'This is my ACCESS baby,'" Gaubert said. Gaubert replied, "Oh, how special. Did you go and get help from them?" The woman said: "You saved me from having an abortion."

Gaubert had spoken in the parish two years earlier but had no recollection of what she had said. She had never met the woman. But something she said that day found a home in a mother's heart.

"I cried and she cried," Gaubert said. "I still fill up every time I think about it. Sometimes with all that's involved in this work, I can honestly say, 'I can't do this anymore. I'm getting tired and I'm starting to complain to my husband that I have to give this up or get more help.' Then you hear a story like that, and it's like the Holy Spirit is telling you something and that God wants you for that ministry!"

*Peter Finney Jr. can be reached at [pfinney@clarionherald.org](mailto:pfinney@clarionherald.org).*

**Thanks to volunteers like Gayle who continue to dedicate their time to our life-giving ministries!**

## Meet Catholic Charities!

*Going to work every day at Catholic Charities is more than a job – it's a ministry of the heart! Meet the people serving in our many programs providing hope and help each day to those in need.*

### Meet Allyson Tuttle of Project SAVE.

Project SAVE provides legal assistance for victims of domestic violence. Allyson has been assisting victims of abuse through Project SAVE since 2001. A graduate of the Academy of the Sacred Heart and Loyola Law School, she always felt she was called to give back to her community in the career that she chose.



"Growing up Catholic and going to Catholic school, service and helping others had always been a part of my life. When it came time to look for a legal career, I knew I wanted to do something in the public interest field." Project SAVE was the perfect fit for Allyson. Through this program, Allyson advocates for victims of abuse by helping them navigate the legal system to find protection and reprieve from abusive situations. Project SAVE works hand in hand with the New Orleans Family Justice Center so that these victims can become empowered and confident individuals.

Allyson says, "We provide the legal piece in helping victims of domestic abuse get restraining orders and protective orders in civil court in Orleans parish. We then work with the Family Justice Center to refer clients for their ongoing needs- counseling, education, assistance for their children. We know for a victim of domestic violence, they're really going to need all those facets of their life to be in line."

Allyson heads up the Project SAVE team with staff attorney Joan Miller and office manager Vicky Gordy. With only a 3 person staff, Allyson estimates that they work with about 250 clients a year.

"Since I started at Catholic Charities, I've probably interviewed over 1000 clients. I haven't necessarily represented all of them in court, but it's sometimes just talking with them and letting them know what their rights are and what their options are."

Whether making big strides like helping clients get custody of their children or the little things like a hug from a client at the end of a meeting, it is this daily affirmation that makes her work with Project SAVE meaningful for Allyson. "Clients say, 'Thank you so much, I couldn't have done it without you.' Just knowing that we're helping people who feel like they've never had a voice is really rewarding."

**Thanks to Allyson and the Project SAVE Team for their ministry! For more information on Project SAVE, call 504-310-6872.**



## Catholic Charities Celebrates Sr. Anthony



Walking through the "Archbishop Wore Combat Boots: the Life and Ministry of Archbishop Philip Hannan" exhibit there are many inspiring photos. In several of those photos, particularly those illustrating the late archbishop's social ministry, there is a nun standing nearby. That nun is Daughter of Charity Sr. Anthony Barczykowski, a quiet but driving force for the local Catholic Church's social apostolates.

After 25 years of ministry dedicated to serving the poor and vulnerable in the New Orleans community, Sr. Anthony has announced she is transitioning out of full time ministry and retiring from her role as Executive Director of Community Services for the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Sr. Anthony held leadership roles in Catholic Charities for over a decade and was vital in founding several social service ministries of the archdiocese.

"Sr. Anthony has truly been a servant of God's people with a special love for the poor and vulnerable," said Archbishop Gregory Aymond. "She has shaped Catholic Charities and social services in the Archdiocese of New Orleans."

"Sr. Anthony's love and concern for the staff and residents of each of our Christopher Homes properties is contagious both for myself and her fellow members of our board," said Deacon Dennis Adams, executive director of

Christopher Homes, the affordable, senior housing program of the archdiocese. "Her approach is always from a pastoral care perspective and she has that 'E.F. Hutton' reputation: when she speaks we all listen and thereby gain appropriate focus and understanding of the issue at hand."

When asked about how Sr. Anthony has impacted his work, Project Lazarus executive director Kim Moss said, "Sr. Anthony has been a constant encouragement to me. Being new to the community when I came to Project Lazarus, she was able to connect me quickly to many resources that I otherwise would not have known. Our residents adore her and love it when she visits."

"Sr. Anthony brought an open-heart and a spirit of service that continues at Catholic Charities today," said Sr. Marjorie Hebert. "We are grateful for the foundation she helped lay for this agency and celebrate her many years in ministry and service to the people of our archdiocese. Our greatest tribute to Sr. Anthony is to continue to give generously, to serve with compassion and be peacemakers in our community."

Sr. Anthony will officially retire June 30, 2014 and will be honored for her ministry at a reception in late June.



### Foster Care Programs Get New Home

Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP) and Therapeutic Family Services (TFS) recently moved to their new location at 1430A Claire Avenue in Gretna, Louisiana. Previously housed at Madonna Manor at Hope Haven in Marrero, this site will house the programs' offices as well as classroom space, food pantry and Hope Chest donation center for young adults transitioning out of the State's Foster Care. ILSP assists with this transition through life-skills classes, counseling and material support. TFS provides foster homes for special needs children and children with behavioral issues.

Before the programs moved in, our Claire Avenue site received some needed refreshing by volunteers from the St. Elizabeth Guild. These awesome volunteers provided fresh paint, carpeting and landscaping for our site! For more information on ILSP or TFS, call (504) 310- 6939

### Celebrating the Gift of Life at the ACCESS Jazz Brunch

ACCESS Pregnancy held its annual Jazz Brunch on April 27, 2014 at the Audubon Tea Room. A highlight of this year's brunch was the blessing of the ACCESS Mobile Pregnancy Center by Archbishop Aymond. Thanks to all the generous supporters of this life-giving ministry! The new ACCESS Mobile Pregnancy Center summer schedule is coming soon. Visit [www.accesspregnancy.com](http://www.accesspregnancy.com) for the details!



Left: Mary, Fonseca (ACCESS Board Co-Pres.), Lisa Baynham (ACCESS Board Co-Pres.), Archbishop, Aymond, Jean Rice (Brunch Co-Chair), Louise Jardell (Brunch Co-Chair) and Michelle Black (Director of ACCESS). Right: Archbishop Aymond blesses the new mobile pregnancy center.

## 2014 Summer SERVE

*Did you know? 115 High School Students from 23 local high schools volunteered 3,517 hours with Catholic Charities in summer 2013!*

Catholic Charities is once again teaming up with the Office of Religious Education for another summer of youth volunteering with SERVE: Students Engaging in Reflective Volunteer Experiences. SERVE offers an opportunity for high school students to give back to the community and achieve the service hours required by many parochial high schools. For more information contact Shannon Murphy, Director of Volunteers at (504) 310-6962. High school students can register online at <http://www.ccano.org/volunteers/high-school-service/>

### Parish Appeal Update! A Note from Sr. Marjorie

*This year, through the advocacy of our pastors and by the generosity of parishioners, the total funds collected from our annual second collection at Masses in the Archdiocese of New Orleans has exceeded our past second collections! We continue to receive incoming donations from a few parishes as well! When you include the contributions of our Catholic School students and faculty through "Show Your Heart Day" in February, we have been extraordinarily blessed by the participation in these important efforts.*

*In this newsletter, you read about the people serving and being served by Catholic Charities. We could not do any of this without the involvement of people like you supporting us through crucial initiatives like our annual second collection. Thank you for being a partner in service as we meet the real challenges of today's ever changing world. Thank you for seeing the face of Jesus in those in need and choosing to make a difference in their lives.*

THANK YOU!